

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akihiko HIRANO et al.
Serial No.: Not yet assigned
Continuation of USSN 09/986,597
Filed: Even date herewith
For: **DECODING APPARATUS AND DECODING METHOD
(as amended)**
Group: 2651 (expected)
Examiner: Rocio Colon (expected)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 22, 2004

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b) and 1.98, attached hereto is one (1) form PTO/SB/O8A listing the eight (8) references which were cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in prior applications Serial No. 09/986,597 filed November 9, 2001, and Serial No. 09/502,056 filed on February 10, 2000, the parent and grandparent applications of the present continuation application.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of these eight (8) references are not being provided with this Information Disclosure Statement because the references were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior applications identified above and the prior applications are being relied upon in the present application for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 as required by 37 CFR 1.97(d)(1), and the

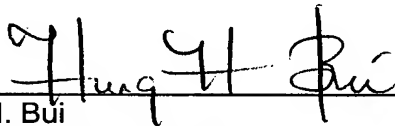
references which were submitted to the Office in the prior applications were submitted in compliance with the version of 37 CFR 1.98(a)-(c) in effect as of the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement as required by 37 CFR 1.98(d)(2).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hung H. Bui", is written over a horizontal line.

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <div style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></div>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	Not yet assigned Continuation of 09/986,597	
			Filing Date	Even date herewith	
			First Named Inventor	Akihiko HIRANO	
			Art Unit	2651 (expected)	
			Examiner Name	Rocio Colon (expected)	
			Attorney Docket Number	500.38183CC2	
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
		US- 5,045,956		09-1991	EJIMA	
		US- 6,081,210		06-2000	NIKOLIC et al.	
		US- 6,130,629		10-2000	AZIZ et al.	
		US- 6,234,847		06-2001	McCLELLAN et al.	
		US- 6,282,690		08-2001	McCLELLAN et al.	
		US- 6,335,841		01-2002	HIRANO et al.	
		US-				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁸
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP - A - 11-243345				

OTHER PRIOR ART—NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Thomas CONWAY, "A New Target Response with Parity Coding for High Density Magnetic Recording Channels", IEEE Transaction on Magnetics, Vol. 34, No. 4, July 1998	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.